

*Application No. 10/760,524
Amendment dated January 30, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated: October 30, 2007*

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REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13, 15-17 and 26-33 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-7, 10-13, and 15-17 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 30, and 33 are currently amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

This amendment does not add new matter to the application as filed. The amendment to claims 1, 30 and 33 are editorial and do not change the scope of the claims. Accordingly, no new matter is added and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 30 is objected to over an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this informality has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 30-31, and 33 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu, U.S. Patent 6,242,862, in view of Nakabayashi, EP 1,136,125, Willner et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,365,007, Toki et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0197254, and Fujimoto et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0013930. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 26 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi, and in view of Rengakuji et al., U.S. Patent 6,602,607. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi, and further in view of Mori et al., U.S. Patent 6,420,437. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi and Willner, and further in view of Boykin et al., U.S. Publication 2004/0112411. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi and Willner, and further in view of Baiker et al., U.S. Patent 5,935,895. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi and Willner, and further in view of Tabatabaie-Raissi et al., U.S. Patent 6,309,611. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Kawakatsu in view of Nakabayashi and Willner, and further in view of Nakamura et al., U.S. Patent 5,759,251. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP §2143.03. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the limitations of the present claims are not taught or suggested by the prior art. The prior art also does not disclose or suggest combining with chelating agents, doping with Eu

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or rare earth metal salt, and hydrosis in aqueous solution to form TiO₂-SCA gel as recited in the claims as currently amended. Accordingly, all of the limitations of the present claims are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art, and the pending prior art rejections must be withdrawn.

Applicants pointed out in the last reply that the prior art does not disclose or suggest combining with chelating agents, doping with Eu or rare earth metal salt, and hydrosis in aqueous solution to form TiO₂-SCA gel as recited in the present claims.

Kawakatsu nowhere discloses or suggests using the chelating agents recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the prior art does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of the present claims. Applicants respectfully submit therefore that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, and the pending prior art rejections must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark Konieczny (Reg. No. 47,715) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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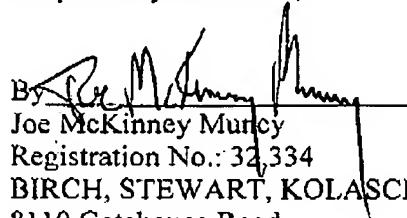
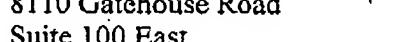
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,


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